

The Baptist Record

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Marriage can work by communicating, not running

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — People don't have much luck running from unhappy marriages.

While 40% of first marriages end in divorce, 60% of second marriages, and 75% of third marriages end in divorce, said Gary Chapman, marriage enrichment speaker and author, in one of 16 "Toward a Growing Marriage" regional seminars. The seminars are to be sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board in the coming year.

"We've got to learn to love the person we're now married to," said Chapman during the inaugural seven-session, Scripture-referenced seminar Sept. 8-9 at First Church, Hendersonville, Tenn.

Communication is key to achieving an intimate, lasting marriage, said Chapman, of Winston-Salem, N.C., whose books on marriage include **Toward a Growing Marriage** and **The Five Love Languages**.

However, statistics again reveal trouble, Chapman said, citing a study reporting 50%

of wives say their husbands are uncommunicative and another study reporting 86% of divorces were fueled by deficient communication.

"Any couple can have good communication," Chapman asserted. It's not a matter of personality, he said, even when a person who tends toward a "Dead Sea" personality has a spouse who tends toward a "Babbling Brook" personality.

"Communication is basically an act of the will," Chapman said. "It's something we choose to do or not do."

Too often, couples can't resolve their conflicts because they're "preaching to each other," Chapman said. The average person will listen to his or her spouse 17 seconds before interrupting, he recounted. Screaming, he added, is "a learned phenomenon — and it can be unlearned," so that negative feelings can be expressed in kinder words.

"There are no conflicts that cannot be resolved," Chapman said.

"There are only people who will not resolve them."

Chapman encouraged spouses to examine themselves in prayer for sin, rather than blaming all their marital problems on their partners. The sin should be confessed to God for forgiveness; likewise, the partner's conscience should be cleared with his or her spouse; and the partner should focus on living by the power of the Holy Spirit, whose control can enable a person to "do things they wouldn't ordinarily do," Chapman said.

The five "love languages" provide more marriage-building help, Chapman said, drawing from his book listing:

— Words of affirmation that build up the other person.

— Gifts, showing that a partner has been thinking of his or her mate.

— Acts of service, even in household chores such as vacuuming or taking out the garbage.

— Spending quality time, giving one's spouse undivided attention.

— Physical touch, such as holding hands, kissing, or sexual intercourse.

"I believe the hope of this nation is in Christian families," Chapman said, warning, "We cannot survive another 30 years in this country like the last 30. We've got a whole generation that doesn't know what Christian marriage is all about."

If the church can "get it together" in the area of marriage, "I believe the world will beat a path to our door and ask us how to do it. We can have a significant impact on our generation... by getting our marriages on a growing track... and spilling over into the communities around us," Chapman said.

Information about upcoming Chapman seminars, or marriage enrichment programs and literature may be obtained by calling the BSSB's adult enrichment line, (615) 251-2277.



ANCHORAGE, Alaska — **Newlyweds Ruddy (center) and Ronnie Taylor (right)** speak with Herb Cotton following their wedding ceremony at the conclusion of a recent Spring Festival of Marriage in Anchorage, Alaska. It was the first wedding conducted in the 15-year history of Festivals of Marriage sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Cotton, a member of the local Spring Festival task force, agreed to secure from state officials the one-day license he needed to marry the couple. (BP photo by Terri Lackey)

Pastors not requiring premarital counseling are "lazy"

NASHVILLE (BP) — "L-a-z-y." That's what Charlie Chilton calls ministers who refuse to require premarital counseling of every couple they marry.

"It takes a lot of time, and it's an investment," Chilton, pastor of Grace Church, Woodbridge, Va., said of the counseling he requires before helping couples tie the knot.

But thanks to a marriage policy initiated in his community near Washington about a year ago, Chilton and about 25 other pastors in the area are enforcing the same rules — counseling as a prerequisite to marriage.

"So now when couples ask me to marry them, I tell them they will have to go through six to eight hours of counseling first," Chilton said. "And when they say, 'Thanks, but no thanks,' I say, 'Well, you're going to get the same treatment down the road.'"

The Community Marriage Policy works under the principle of teamwork. Pastors of several denominations within a certain community sign a contract that says they will attempt to reduce the divorce rate by:

— requiring engaged couples to undergo a minimum of four months of marriage preparation;

— establishing mentor couples in the congregation;

— encouraging couples to attend weekend marriage encounters; and

— appointing a committee of attorneys drafting possible changes in marriage and divorce laws.

Syndicated religion columnist Michael McManus has written a book, **Marriage Savers**, which outlines his strategy for reducing the number of divorces in America and includes the concept of the Community Marriage Policy. His book is part of the Marriage Savers Video Series package, produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Pastors and counselors can find resources such as the Prepare/Enrich inventories in the back of McManus' **Marriage Savers** book. The Marriage Savers Video Series, which includes six 30-minute videos, a leader's guide, and the **Marriage Savers** book, addresses the issues and needs of persons who are dating, engaged, newly married, estranged couples, separated, and divorced couples, and remarried/blended families. Additionally, "Faithful & True: Sexual Integrity in a Fallen World," a LifeWay product, will be released in June 1996.

Keep the good stuff

Southern Baptists must retain the important ways of doing church while moving into the 21st century, according to a Home Mission Board specialist in new church extension. Tim Palmer pointed out that early Baptist churches, like the church of the New Testament, were built on interpersonal relationships. Those churches didn't allow members to fade unnoticed from the fellowship, he said. "People didn't just disappear. The biggest problem in our churches is that our people don't have relational skills," Palmer explained. He is also concerned that modern Southern Baptist churches have become too institutionalized, stressing growth and adding professional staff while de-emphasizing lay leadership. That's not the way it was as late as 50 years ago, Palmer said, when small churches had to rely on lay leadership to conduct church activities and have preaching only when they could afford it. "Southern Baptists have tried to get respectable like other denominations. In the process, we're offending God. I love the traditional church. I love traditional pastors. But I see significant problems in the way we do church today," Palmer said.

Thanks, but no thanks

Jack Howell was surprised to learn that his extraordinary baseball talent qualified him to become a Buddha. The Southern Baptist laymen from Tucson was named the Tokyo League's Most Valuable Player in his first season after winning home run and batting average titles. As every Japanese baseball fan knows, Howell broke more records the next season and helped his team win the Japan World Series. That's when a Japanese sportscaster pointed out that he was being elevated to the level of Buddha among his adoring fans. "Thankfully, God gave me a quick mind. I told him, 'My faith is in Jesus Christ and my power and strength come from him,'" he said. After that exchange, Howell was moved to write a pamphlet with the help of an English-speaking Japanese pastor. He hands out the pamphlet, which describes his Christian faith, whenever fans throng around him. "It says that my wish would be that the Japanese people would come to have a relationship with Jesus Christ," he said. Howell, his wife, and their four children attend Tokyo Baptist Church.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi volunteers brush up on their Mexican cooking while the state Baptist disaster relief unit speeds to Mexico City to help feed thousands left homeless by a major earthquake in one of the world's largest cities.

20 years ago

Anita Bryant, former Miss America and now an entertainer and religious personality, is presented in concert at Mississippi College as the first in a series of events marking the 150th anniversary of the school.

50 years ago

A survey of veterans returning from the war and enrolling at Mississippi State University in Starkville indicates that a large number plan to get involved in religious activities — more so than social clubs, Greek societies, or sports.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Amos: warning for our nation

Do your church a favor! Schedule a visit from Amos, an Old Testament prophet preaching a message needed today. It is the suggested book for the upcoming Winter Bible Study and thousands of people across the nation will be involved in the study.

We all will profit by participating in an in-depth Bible study, hearing the Word of the Lord, and making some modern applications. Don't expect a light soup when you come to the table of Amos; he serves beef steaks.

First, encourage your church council or leadership team to have the Winter Bible Study. Set the date in January or February. Enlist the teacher. I suggest your pastor, or you may wish to get a seminary or college professor, or a neighboring pastor.

Order the books (**Amos: Repentance or Ruin** by Leon Hyatt Jr.) and then get the word out. The teacher may wish to have

the "Resource Kit," edited by Tom Hudson. Hudson is an experienced pastor (formerly of Oak Forest Church, Jackson) and an excellent writer, now working at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Amos declares his God to be a God of hope and concludes his message (9:11-15) with a bright ray. He encourages the discouraged hearer with words of prosperity for the nation and for individuals.

You will find yourself drawing a parallel of Amos' day and the day in which we now live. Discouraged believers, oppressed people, a spiritual drought, and coming judgment, mark the morally decadent nation of Amos' day.

R. Kelvin Moore, in "Amos: An Introduction" in New Orleans Seminary's **The Theological Educator**, notes that the "eighth-century prophet" reads like today's newspaper. The message

is alive and meaningful. Amos exhibits superb literary ability, even though he worked as a bivocational prophet in the sycamore fields.

Many people have not seriously studied the Bible since childhood. Having outgrown the "childish habit" of Sunday School, they now falsely suppose that all the adults who take the Bible seriously must be childishly accepting the ideas which they have abandoned.

Many youths are coming into adult life with an immature faith and fail to see the connection of an ancient scroll with a complex society. Those who have discovered the vitality of the Word drink from an inexhaustible spring that endures forever.

All can profit from a study of the prophet Amos and his God who stands with the plumb-line on the wall of the city — and perhaps on America.

Baptist, Catholic theologians engage in new "conversation"

NASHVILLE (BP) — A team of theologians from the largest evangelical denomination in the United States, Southern Baptists, held their first meeting Sept. 14-15 with theologians from the largest church in the country, Roman Catholicism.

The 1994 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Fla., "encouraged" the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department to enter "conversations" with the Catholic Church "to foster better understanding" between the two faiths.

Although similar dialogues had been held periodically for many years, the HMB's Phil Roberts said this is a new team and a new approach.

"We are not using the word dialogue because it is often perceived to signal a willingness to negotiate doctrines. Neither Catholics nor Baptists have that intention," Roberts said.

"We (Southern Baptists) were there to represent the denomination and to faithfully witness for Jesus Christ," he explained. "Our concerns were to explain the basis of our hope for salvation as one Baptist neighbor would share it with a Catholic friend. We were able to do that."

Don Kammerdiener, Foreign Mission Board executive vice president, said the discussion was wholesome. "Each side understands

the other better, and we took several opportunities to bear witness to our faith," said Kammerdiener, who served on previous teams.

"This (Southern Baptist) group is determined to clarify the Baptist evangelical stance and be persuasive about that stance," he said.

Frank Ruff, a member of the Catholic team who participated in past meetings, said the most recent conversation was much more substantive.

"This time we talked about the core beliefs of our faith rather than peripheral matters. We were talking directly about issues, not around them," Ruff said.

SBC team member Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., said the conversation was "tremendously educational. While it became increasingly apparent that any ecumenical goal was clearly unattainable, it was of great value in clarifying what both groups believe."

Conversation topics included the definition of dogma, the status of ecumenism, and differences in church polity, but participants repeatedly returned to biblical inerrancy, according to Mark Coppenger, president of Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

"Since much of the conversation was focused on the role of Scripture, it was reminiscent of the debate that has gripped the SBC for nearly two decades. Catholic par-

ticipants were more enthusiastic about the 'historical-critical method' of Bible study than were the Southern Baptists."

Looking toward their September 1996 meeting, each team will study each group's official statements on biblical authority. Catholics will study the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, while Southern Baptists will review the 1965 document "Dei Verbum," issued by the Second Vatican Council. The teams also will deal with particular Scripture passages, demonstrating their different approaches to interpretation.

In addition to Roberts, Kammerdiener, Patterson, and Coppenger, the SBC team included David Dockery, vice president for academic administration at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.; Bill Gordon of the HMB's interfaith witness staff; and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

In addition to Ruff, the Catholic team includes Lexington, Ky., Bishop J. Kendrick Williams; Loyola Marymount professor Thomas Rausch; St. John's professor Jean-Pierre Ruiz; Maryknoll Sister Joan Delaney; the Pontifical Biblical Commission's Joseph Fitzmeyer; and Jude Weisenbeck and Jeffrey Gros of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops staff.



THE FRAGMENTS

The common things

The farmer stopped the mule at the end of the cotton row, turned around, and came to a halt. Leaning back on the Georgia stock, he unconsciously searched in his overalls for the makings of a cigarette. He took an OCB paper and blew one apart, creasing it with his left index finger.

The Bull Durham sack of tobacco just appeared and he salted the tobacco into the creased paper. Closing the sack with his teeth, he managed to put the papers and tobacco back into the "bib pocket" of his overalls, and roll the cigarette in a smooth, simultaneous motion. A kitchen match materialized and he struck it on a metal button and the smoke soon sifted across the bronzed leather-like face.

Words such as these call forth a vision to a generation of Mississippians and brush the dust off words like "gee," "ha," and "side har." To the uninitiated these mean "left," "right," and "side harrow."

One college student on a home visit reproached his father as he heard, "Whoa Beck, get up Beck etc."

The father relinquished the reins to his erudite son and heard him say, "All right, Rebecca, pivot and proceed."

And it was Josh Billings who said he had known mules to be good for 20 years just to get one good kick at the farmer.

Historians declare that the mules that worked in the coal mines of Wales had to learn a new language during the great Welsh revival in 1905. So many of the miners were saved and quit using foul language that the mules had to learn the "language of Zion."

God used Balaam's donkey to declare his Word, which prompted Baker James Cauthen to smilingly say to a class of new missionaries: "If God could use a dumb donkey to carry his Word, then most of you will be able to do it."

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey; somehow, he was always able to take the common things of life and transform them into things of beauty. The common things are all about us, awaiting a touch from the Master.

— GH

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150

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Mississippi Baptist Convention

160th Annual Session

First Church, Jackson — Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1995

Tuesday morning, Oct. 31, Session 1

8:45	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
8:50	Sounding of the Gavel	Rex Yancey
8:55	Choral Praise	Chancel Choir, FBC, Pascagoula
9:05	Congregational Praise	Stan Loyd
	Hear the Word of the Lord	Malcolm Pinion
	Prayer	Mike Hatfield
9:15	Organization of the Convention	
	Recognition and Seating of Messengers	Rex Yancey
	Report of Committee on Order of Business	Chuck Hampton
	Tellers and Credentials Committees	Rex Yancey
	Welcome	First Baptist Church
9:30	Bible Treasure	Roy Fish
9:55	Report of Committee on Committees	Bartis Harper
10:00	Presentation of Resolutions	
10:15	Congregational Praise	Stan Loyd
10:20	The Church Witnessing	Clark Stewart
10:25	Election of President	Rex Yancey
10:50	Choral Praise	Chancel Choir, FBC, Pascagoula
10:55	President's Address	Rex Yancey
11:25	Second Ballot for President (if needed)	
11:30	Benediction	Robert Rogers

Tuesday afternoon, Session 2

1:30	Prelude	One Voice, Music/Drama Ensemble
1:45	Sounding of the Gavel	Kara Blackard
	Congregational Praise	George Puckett
	Hear the Word of the Lord	Wade Chappell
	Prayer	Bobby Waggoner
1:55	The Church Witnessing	Richard Ford
2:00	Business Session	Rex Yancey
	Presentation of 1996 Budget	Robert Upchurch
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Miscellaneous Business	
2:30	Bible Treasure	Roy Fish
2:55	Congregational Praise	George Puckett
	Choral Praise	One Voice
3:00	Report of Christian Action Commission	*Paul Jones
3:10	Home Mission Board	Jim Coldiron
3:20	Convention Board Report	Odean Puckett
3:30	Business Session	Rex Yancey
	Election of Convention Officers	
	Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee	
	Miscellaneous Business	
4:00	Congregational Praise	George Puckett
4:05	Choral Praise	One Voice
4:10	Message	David Dykes
4:45	Benediction	George Johnson

Tuesday evening, Session 3

6:30	Prelude	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
6:35	Sounding of the Gavel	Rex Yancey
6:40	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
7:00	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
	Hear the Word of the Lord	Van D. Quick
	Prayer	Stuart Calvert
7:10	The Church Witnessing	Stan Fornea
7:15	Final Presentation of Resolutions	
7:20	Recognition of Guests	Rex Yancey
	Recognition of New Workers	Bill Causey
7:35	Memorial Service	Louis Smith
7:40	Partnership Missions	Bill Hardy
7:55	Congregational Praise	Graham Smith
8:00	Choral Praise	Mississippi Singing Churchmen
8:05	Message	Bill Causey
8:45	Benediction	Sam Simmons

Wednesday morning, Nov. 1, Session 4

8:45	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
8:50	Sounding of the Gavel	Rex Yancey

Continued on Page 4

Baptist disaster relief units on site in Opal-stricken Fla., Ala., Ga.

MEMPHIS (BP) — Five Southern Baptist disaster relief units were dispatched Oct. 5 to parts of Florida, Alabama, and Georgia whipped by Hurricane Opal the previous evening.

Opal packed winds of more than 140 miles per hour as it came ashore on the Florida Panhandle. An estimated 2 million people were left without electricity in the three states and in North and South Carolina; for some, it could take days to restore power, the Associated Press reported.

Red Cross and local officials dispatched Florida Baptist units to Destin, Fort Walton Beach, and Okaloosa Island, Fla. (specific sites not yet reported); an Alabama unit to First Church, Enterprise, Ala.; and a Georgia unit to Carroll County (site not yet reported).

Also, two Georgia Baptist cleanup units were working in Douglas County, Ga. (western suburban Atlanta), and a feeding team was cooking meals at a school for people in shelters in the county.

Baptist disaster relief units from Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana remain on standby. "We are expecting more calls for cleanup and feeding units over the next 24 hours," said Mickey Caison, of the Brotherhood Commission, which coordinates multi-state response to disasters on behalf of Southern Baptists. "We remain in constant contact with the American Red Cross in Washington and with state convention Brotherhood offices throughout the Southeast," Caison said.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, October 12, 1995

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Miss. Baptists to spread good news in Olympic city

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptists have adopted one of Georgia's Olympic cities in an effort to reach for Christ the thousands of people from around the globe who will be in Atlanta for the Olympic Games next summer.

Volunteers are being recruited from the state's churches to work in the Athens, Ga., area during competition in that city, said Jan Cossitt, consultant in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and coordinator of Olympic activities for Mississippi Baptists.

"We dream of traveling around the world to spread the gospel. It is an awesome thought that Mississippi Baptists will have the opportunity to share Jesus with people from 195 countries — just six hours from our doorstep," she pointed out.

Cossitt said many people don't realize that Olympic events will take place at several sites in addition to Atlanta. Those sites include Athens, Columbus, Savannah, and southeast Tennessee.

The city of Athens, which Mississippi Baptists have adopted, will see competition in soccer, volleyball, and rhythmic gymnastics.

"The biggest task will be staffing the hospitality booths around Athens. Volunteers will give away drinks and fruit and help foreigners with their English, in addition to giving out Sports Bibles and witnessing," Cossitt said.

The Olympic effort is being sponsored by the Atlanta-based Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which has created Atlanta International Ministries (AIM) to

coordinate Southern Baptist activities during the Olympics.

Mississippi Baptist volunteers are needed next summer for the weeks of July 14-20, July 21-27, and July 28-Aug. 3.

Volunteers may choose from three shifts each day to staff the hospitality booths, such as 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Cossitt said, with the remainder of the day spent according to the volunteer's wishes.

AIM has arranged accommoda-

tions at a number of Baptist churches' family life centers in the area, where lodging for a week with breakfast each day will cost \$50 per person. Volunteers are also free to arrange their own accommodations, she added.

For more information or to receive a volunteer application, contact Cossitt at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Henry: Opal recovery will need prayers, volunteers

MEMPHIS (BP) — Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, issued a call for Southern Baptists to "pray, go, and give" in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Opal.

At the same time, volunteers from four state conventions began feeding and cleanup operations across the southeast. Other state conventions continued on standby.

Opal was the latest in one of the busiest storm seasons on record.

Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., called on Southern Baptists to "join me in prayer for the families of those who have lost loved ones and homes, for the recovery of those who are injured and for the safety of those public servants who have been on the front lines throughout this disaster."

"I also ask that you pray for our Southern Baptist volunteers who are already at work...."

"It may be that God is calling some of us to do more than pray,"

Henry added. "In any event, I urge you to act."

The aftermath of Opal opened up a third arena of involvement for Southern Baptists in disaster response. Feeding units operated by Texas Baptist Men and the Alabama Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department continue to provide meals in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Brotherhood Commission is working with the Foreign Mission Board in recruiting construction teams to serve in Antigua and St. Maarten through November.

Those who wish to make donations in support of the disaster relief effort may send contributions to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104. The contribution should be designated for disaster relief.

Prospective volunteers for service in Antigua and St. Maarten should call 1-800-280-1891. Volunteers for other areas should contact their state convention Brotherhood offices.

Continued from Page 3

8:55	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, McComb
9:05	Congregational Praise	Mark Moore
	Hear the Word of the Lord	Dwight Brown
	Prayer	Kenny Griffith
9:15	Discipleship Training Presentation	Mose Dangerfield
9:25	Bible Treasure	Roy Fish
9:50	Business Session	
	Adoption of 1996 Budget	Robert Upchurch
	Report of Committee on Nominations	Ernest Sadler
	Resolutions Committee Report (part 1)	
	Miscellaneous Business	
10:40	Congregational Praise	Mark Moore
10:45	The Church Witnessing	Burnice Havard
10:50	Choral Praise	Sanctuary Choir, FBC, McComb
10:55	Convention Sermon	Jimmy Porter
11:30	Benediction	Richard Bradley

Wednesday afternoon, Session 5

1:20	Prelude	Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
1:30	Sounding of the Gavel	Rex Yancey
	Congregational Praise	Milfred Valentine
	Hear the Word of the Lord	Jerry Bishop
	Prayer	Don Nerren
1:40	Bible Treasure	Roy Fish
2:05	Business Session	
	Report of Time, Place, Preacher Committee	
	Report of Resolutions Committee (part 2)	
	Miscellaneous Business	
2:25	Report of Baptist Children's Village	Ronnie Robinson
2:35	Evangelism Report	Garland McKee
2:45	Congregational Praise	Milfred Valentine
2:50	Choral Praise	William Carey College Chorale
2:55	Spotlight on Christian Education	Raymon Leake
3:05	Board of Ministerial Education	Ernest Turcotte
3:10	Introduction of College Presidents	Rex Yancey
	William Carey College Report	Jim Edwards
3:20	Choral Praise	William Carey College Chorale
3:25	Message	Steve Bennett
4:00	Benediction	George Meadows

Room rates of some of the hotels near downtown Jackson for the Mississippi Baptist Convention (excluding tax):

Admiral Benbow Inn 905 N. State St. (601) 948-4161	\$42 (with a block of 10 or more rooms for MBC)			
Cabot Lodge I-55 at County Line Rd. 120 Dyess Rd. Ridgeland, MS 39157 (601) 957-0757	\$63 single standard \$67 king size (\$8 each additional person)			
Cabot Lodge-Millsaps State St. @ Woodrow Wilson 2375 N. State St. (601) 948-8650	\$62 king size/one person \$59 double (\$8 each additional person) (Must ask for business rate) Continental breakfast included			
Coliseum Ramada Inn I-55 North — between Pearl & High St. exits (601) 969-2141	\$55 single \$62 double			
Harvey (formerly Holiday Inn Downtown) 200 E. Amite St. (601) 969-5100	\$65 single/double			
Red Roof Inn I-55 @ High St. (601) 969-5006	\$35.99 single \$42.99 double \$49.99 two beds	\$45.99 single \$52.99 double	king size for one king size for two	
The Wilson Inn I-55 @ High St. (601) 948-4466	\$47.95 single \$59.95 double			
Edison Walthall 225 E. Capitol (601) 948-6161	\$59 single \$69 double			

WMU mails "special report" as answer to Rankin letter

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) has released a "WMU Special Report" in response to an Aug. 25 letter mailed to Southern Baptist churches by Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board.

The four-page WMU report, mailed the week of Sept. 27, includes a letter explaining WMU's plans to produce "missions education supplements" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and 10 short articles on ways WMU is working to support the missions efforts of the Home and Foreign Mission boards.

The WMU report was sent to pastors, directors of missions, and church and associational WMU directors in a third-class mailing. Copies also were sent to SBC agency executives, state convention executive directors, and state editors in a first-class mailing. A letter on the cover of the WMU report opens with an expression of thanks "for your support of

Woman's Missionary Union" and an acknowledgement of Rankin's letter.

Beginning in 1996, the letter continues, "For those churches who request it, we will make available in our coed materials a supplement which will give information about Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions work and their missionaries. This is a cost-recovery project and will be marketed only by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

The letter then states WMU's intention to continue its historic relationship with the HMB and FMB. "Every magazine, video, book, or other product published by WMU supports the work of our mission boards.

"These are days of missions advance," the letter concludes. "It behooves us to join hands with all Great Commission Christians to spread the gospel to every part of the world.

"Our primary responsibility as an organization is to make South-

ern Baptists aware of these needs, then trust the Holy Spirit to lead them to respond. We would do nothing that would diminish the participation of Southern Baptists in the effort to win the world to Christ."

The 10 articles included in the report highlight WMU's new organizational changes, its ongoing promotion of SBC Foreign and Home Mission studies, the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings, and emphasis on prayer for home and foreign missionaries.

The report also notes new WMU initiatives in mission support, including Christian Women's Job Corps and Project HELP emphases on social issues such as AIDS.

Other articles highlight WMU's Vision Fund, Second Century Fund, Acteens Activators, Women on Mission Enterprisers, and its five-year growth plan, "A Place for You."

The article on the growth plan concludes, "WMU wants every Southern Baptist to know, 'There is a place for you in reaching the whole world for Christ, and we can show you how.'"

A spokesman for the FMB said Oct. 3 no FMB response was being formulated to the WMU mailing.

Statewide pictorial to be shot during '95 convention meet

Mississippi pastors and church staff members should make a special effort to stop by the PCA International, Inc. exhibit at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 31-Nov. 1 to be photographed for the updated statewide pictorial, said Louis F. Aldridge of Tupelo, regional account director for the Matthews, N.C.-based company.

Aldridge, whose company publishes Church Family Albums, said photographers will be set up on the second floor of Education Building-West at First Church,

Jackson, where the convention sessions will take place.

The photographers will be available from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 30, and Tuesday, Oct. 31. On Wednesday, Nov. 1, photographers will be available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Family portraits are welcome, Aldridge said, and each pastor and staff member who is photographed will receive a free portrait package and a copy of the pictorial through his/her associational director of missions.

"We are doing this as a service to Mississippi Baptists," Aldridge said.

For more information, contact Aldridge at P.O. Box 2611, Tupelo, MS 38803. Telephone: (601) 842-3569.

NOBTS alums will meet at Ramada Inn

Mississippi alumni of New Orleans Seminary will meet for lunch at 12 noon on Tuesday, Oct. 31 in the Empire Ballroom of the Ramada Coliseum in Jackson.

Landrum P. Leavell II, interim president of the seminary, will be the featured speaker. L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will provide the musical program.

Luncheon cost is \$13 per person. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Wednesday, Oct. 25.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Kenny Digby, state alumni president, at 17904 Highway 25 North, Fulton, MS 38843. Telephone: (601) 862-4723.

Carey College hosts MBC fellowship

William Carey College will hold a fellowship for alumni and friends attending the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Tuesday, Oct. 31, in the Baptist Building chapel immediately following the close of the evening convention session.

There is no charge for the fellowship, and no reservations are necessary.

For more information, contact Donna Wheeler in the Carey Alumni Relations Office at 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499. Telephone: (601) 582-6107.

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CLC trustees elect Dodson; O.K. radio and cyberporn initiatives

NASHVILLE (BP) — During their annual board meeting SBC Christian Life Commissioners unanimously approved Will Dodson as associate general counsel and director of government relations. Other business included the adoption of a record ministry budget for the agency, including funds for a pilot radio program to address moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues.

Dodson begins his duties in the Washington offices of the CLC Jan. 15. He replaces James A. Smith, director of government relations for the past six years who resigned to pursue seminary studies. Smith was recognized following the board meeting for his contributions to public affairs on behalf of Southern Baptists in the nation's capital.

Dodson, 39, received his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, and his law degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. His law career includes service as briefing attorney for the Eleventh Court of

Appeals of Texas, assistant district attorney, and eight and a half years as judge, county court-at-law for Lubbock County, Texas. Following a personal spiritual pilgrimage begun two years ago, he resigned his position and entered Southeastern Seminary this summer preparing for the goal of God's call to full-time Christian service.

The board approved a 1995-96 operating budget in the amount of \$1,758,520, a record amount. Included were program funds to initiate a pilot radio broadcast addressing moral, ethical, and religious liberty issues from a Southern Baptist perspective. Land said "We are tremendously excited about this opportunity to share the CLC's message on the moral and public policy issues confronting our nation with several million Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians on a weekly basis."

Trustees also voted to award the 1996 Distinguished Service Award to Jerry Kirk. The award for Kirk, founder and president of the

National Coalition Against Pornography, was proposed in recognition of his leadership and courage in the fight against pornography. N-CAP is an alliance of representatives of numerous citizen action groups, foundations and religious denominations. It is an educational, resource, and special action group which opposes illegal pornography. The hard-core pornographic material N-CAP fights often involves graphic or violent subordination, exploitation, degradation, or humiliation — especially of women and children.

In other business, the title for the top staff officer of the CLC was changed from executive director to president and chief executive officer. The change is intended to bring the terminology more into line with other SBC entities, and more clearly reflect appropriate organizational structure of the CLC, according to Gary Ledbetter, chairman of the board.

In other business, the CLC national seminar was approved to be held in Charleston, S.C., in 1998.

B&H distributes "fast-food" communion

NASHVILLE (BP) — The latest innovation in an ancient Christian practice soon goes public — a small pack that contains a communion wafer and grape juice.

It looks like nondairy creamer with a wafer on top, wrapped in adhesive plastic. It's being both hailed as God-inspired and dismissed as religious kitsch — "McCommunion" — for a throw-away culture.

Whatever it is, "Remembrance" communion sets — sanitary, convenient, \$29.99 per box of 210 — will be in Christian retail bookstores in November.

Promoters think it's perfect for outdoor worship settings, nursing homes, and prisons. It also should cut down on the time it takes to

serve communion in large, indoor churches.

"It came to me in a vision on my way to church one day — an inspiration from God," said Jim Johnson, a Chicago businessman who invented the communion kit.

Johnson, a Protestant, aims to produce 100 million kits a month. He's working on a wine version. It's patented in 68 countries.

Broadman & Holman, a division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will be the sole distributor to Christian bookstores. The kits are produced by Compak Corp. in Chicago, where Johnson is president.

Johnson believes the new-fangled sets will allow more people to experience communion, also called the Lord's Supper.

The sets don't need refrigeration and have a shelf life of a year or more.

One skeptic calls the set not a

breakthrough, but a breakdown of tradition.

"It comes across as religious fast food," said Ralph Van Loon, a Lutheran minister and head of Liturgical Conference, an ecumenical organization in Silver Spring, Md., devoted to liturgical renewal.

"It may be regarded as appropriate for some traditions, but it seems to me it doesn't heighten an awareness of the unusual sacredness of the communion act."

Interest in the one-stop communion set underscores the dramatic differences among Christians over communion practices.

"This set won't be for everybody," said Libby Eaton, a spokeswoman at Broadman & Holman. "There's no intent to replace anyone's communion practices. It meets some communion needs that some communion products don't meet."

New Orleans Seminary to offer 2nd bivo course

Registration is open for the second of eight courses offered around the state by New Orleans Seminary to train bivocational music directors and church educational workers.

The course, "Worship Planning," will meet once each week from 7-9 p.m. for eight consecutive weeks at three locations in Mississippi:

— Broadmoor Church, Jackson, beginning Oct. 30. Teacher: Jimmy McCaleb.

— Antioch Church, Columbus, beginning Oct. 17. Teacher: Ed Nix.

— First Church, Purvis, beginning Oct. 23. Teacher: James Hayes.

The course is part of a two-year cycle of eight courses which earns the student a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary.

The other courses are: song leading; reading music-rhythm/pitch; reading music-harmony/melody; staff communications/relationships; hymnology; music administration; and graded choir enlistment.

The cost of each course is \$75, and there is a one-time application fee of \$25.

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.



The Mississippi College (MC) School of Business recently earned national recognition through Phi Beta Lambda, the national business student organization. At its July National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla., Stacy Turnage (second from right) of Brookhaven was elected national secretary; Brad Taylor (right) of Natchez was elected Southern region secretary. Taylor also serves as vice president for Phi Beta Lambda in Mississippi. Turnage and Taylor, along with Phi Beta Lambda advisor Sarah Pitts (from left) of Troy, N.C., and state secretary Karon Berry of Crystal Springs, recently met with MC President Howell Todd.

CBF to seek Sherman's successor, move to Mercer

ATLANTA (BP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is seeking a new leader and making plans to relocate its offices at Mercer University's Atlanta campus.

Cecil Sherman, 67, CBF coordinator since 1992, announced during a CBF coordinating council meeting Sept. 28 he will retire from the position June 30, 1996.

Also during the meeting, the CBF announced plans to purchase a \$1.25 million, four-acre tract adjacent to Mercer's Atlanta campus and enter a five-year rental agreement on the campus beginning in 1997 in a building to be built for Mercer's proposed theological school, slated to open in 1996.

The CBF, organized in 1991, is an organization of Baptist moderates opposed to the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative leadership. The CBF lists 1,400 supporting churches, an annual budget of \$13 million, 80 missionaries, and 21 staff members.

CBF chairman Pat Anderson, of Lakeland, Fla., named an 11-member search committee for Sherman's successor, to be chaired by Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, the CBF's past moderator and retired executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, and including five pastors, four women, and two African Americans.

McKee announces he will retire at year's end

J. Garland McKee, director of evangelism for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) since 1991, will retire at the end of December.

A native of Greenville, McKee, 65, came to the MBCB from Houston, Texas, where he was the first full-time associational evangelism director in Southern Baptist life.

McKee is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Pastorates McKee served include: West Keechi Church, Jack County, Texas; Lawn Terrace, Mineral Wells, Texas; First Church, Kerens, Texas; Memorial Church, Houston, Texas; Istrouma Church, Baton Rouge,

La., and First Church, Pearland, Texas.



J. Garland McKee

Deadline set for convention news

A special deadline has been set for news related to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Jackson. In order to appear in the list of activities that will be printed in the Oct. 19 edition of **The Baptist Record**, groups and organizations must have their information in the newspaper office by the close of business on Monday, Oct. 16. Please include the name of the group, time and place of meeting, any costs involved, deadlines, and a contact person's telephone number. The information may be faxed to the attention of **The Baptist Record** at (601) 968-3928, or telephone (601) 968-3800, ext. 3817.

SWBTS alums plan meeting at Calvary, Jackson

Alumni of Southwestern Seminary will gather at Calvary Church, Jackson, at 12 noon on Oct. 31 for their annual fellowship luncheon, held in conjunction each year with the meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Featured speaker will be Roy Fish, Professor of Evangelism at Southwestern since 1965. Fish will also serve as the Bible Treasure speaker for the convention sessions.

Luncheon cost is \$10 per person. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Friday, Oct. 27.

For more information, contact James Webster, state alumni president, in Jackson at (601) 373-6216. For tickets, contact Bill Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 1444, Cleveland, MS 38732. Telephone: (601) 843-2507.



Diamondhead opens center

Diamondhead Church, Gulf Coast Association, recently held a ribbon-cutting and open house for its new child development center. The congregation built the addition to its education facilities to minister to the community's increasing number of families with young children. The center will offer weekday childcare which "ministers to the total child — physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, and spiritually," according to church secretary Judy Womack. The center uses the "Wee Learn" curriculum developed by the Southern Baptist Convention. Lynda Watts of Biloxi is director of the center. Fred Womack is Diamondhead pastor.

RTVC president says depraved technology fuels work of Satan

FORT WORTH (BP) — The president of the Radio and Television Commission is sounding an alert.

"We need to wake up to the fact that the communications age brings with it inherent dangers to everyone, especially our children," said Jack Johnson in response to a number of recent news stories that report how computers are being used to promote pornography and solicit children for sexual purposes.

"All media can be used for good or evil," Johnson said. "We must be constantly alert to the fact that secular humanism, immorality, and materialism threaten even the most committed Christian families in today's electronic society."

Johnson said with the increas-

Strengthford Church, Laurel, notes 125th

Strengthford Church, Wayne County, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a homecoming on Oct. 15.

Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m., and will be followed by song and worship services. Former pastors will be guest speakers.

Dinner will be served in the church fellowship hall at noon. At 1:30 p.m., the Magnolia Boys will be featured in an afternoon concert.

ing reliance on computers by American families, there will be an increasing number of depraved people who use the technology to further the work of Satan.

"We need to turn back the tidal wave of filth," he said. "And we can help do that by using the computer for ministry. It is a great tool for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians have been slow to utilize it for that purpose. But we have been slow to use all media in spreading the gospel. Now we're fighting an uphill battle."

The RTVC president said practically all media are being used to promote pornography, not just computer networks.

"Women and children are the obvious targets of hard-core pornography, but men can also become victims," Johnson said. "Unfortunately, the largest group of consumers of pornography are boys between the ages of 12 and 17. Most men who have severe problems with porn addiction had early exposure to pornography. Not every boy who uses pornography becomes a sexual deviant. But when pornography plays a major role in a boy's formative years, his views on sex, love, women, and relationship can become distorted."

"It can affect his ability to have a deep, loving, and intimate relationship with a woman," Johnson said. "If taken far enough, it can even contribute to criminal behavior."

October 1995 has been proclaimed **Mission Mississippi Month** by Governor Kirk Fordice. As part of the month-long "Celebration of Reconciliation in Christ," the organization has scheduled a rally in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, beginning with youth night on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. Joseph Jennings will be the speaker for that event. Vocalist Kathy Troccoli will perform. On Oct. 19, evangelist E.V. Hill of Los Angeles will be the featured speaker for worship and unity night. Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, will also speak. For more information on racial reconciliation events throughout October, call Mission Mississippi at (601) 353-6477.

Conference speaker offers points on handling conflict

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP) — Conflict is inevitable in the church, according to Dave Odom, a specialist in helping congregations resolve conflict.

"The definition of peace is not the absence of conflict," said Odom, director of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C. Odom led a session on conflict resolution during the Baptist Center for Ethics conference on "Church Growth with Leadership Integrity."

Ministers often are the last to admit that conflict has risen to dangerous levels, Odom said. And even laypeople often deny the presence of conflict in the church, he added.

Odom outlined a process that conflict often follows in churches and noted some conflicts can be thwarted by facing them head-on as they arise. As conflicts elevate to higher levels, the chance of avoiding long-term damage decreases, he noted.

The first step to resolving conflict is to understand that different people employ different styles of conflict management, Odom said. He outlined five styles identified by Speed Leas:

— **Persuade.** The persuader assumes that the other person is simply ignorant or incorrect and needs to be changed. This assumes that with enough persuasion, the other person will change positions.

— **Compel.** The compeller uses the force of authority to demand compliance.

— **Avoid/accommodate.** This style, which Odom said is the most common for ministers, leads a person to stay out of the conflict, either actively or passively. While such a style is appropriate sometimes, it is dangerous at other times, he said.

— **Collaborate.** The collaborator gets everybody together to look for a "win-win" solution. But Odom said such an outcome may not be possible in every situation.

— **Negotiate.** The negotiator employs a strategy similar to the collaborator, but doesn't look for a "win-win" solution. In this model, no one gets everything he wants, but some resolution is achieved.

— **Support.** The supporter merely listens to the conflict without offering any solution or direction. This is the style most often employed by counselors, Odom said.

Each of these styles of conflict management may be appropriate in certain settings, he said. The effective leader will know how to adapt to the circumstances and not remain stuck in one style, he explained.

The simplest way to manage conflict is to keep it at the most basic level or move it back to that basic level, Odom said. This basic level focuses on "we have a problem to solve" rather than on personalities and side issues.

Odom advises writing out a "workable problem statement" as the guide to solving the problem at hand. This statement must be free of blame, specific and descriptive, not have to do with the distant past, not be a "put down" of any involved party, and must be agreed to by all involved as a definition of the problem.

The Center for Congregational Health, which Odom directs, is a ministry of North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. The center offers consulting services to all churches in the Jewish and Christian tradition to help congregations understand their identity, clarify their mission, and resolve conflict.

First Church, Atlanta, votes to keep Charles Stanley pastor

ATLANTA (ABP) — Members of First Church of Atlanta voted Oct. 1 to retain Charles Stanley as pastor despite the embattled preacher's pending divorce.

In a members-only meeting behind the locked doors of the church's sanctuary, Stanley told about 5,000 people in attendance it is not God's will for him to leave.

Stanley said God told him, "You keep doing what I called you to do, where I called you to do it, until I tell you to do something else."

"If God wants to move me, he can move me instantly," said Stanley, 62. "If God tells me I'm finished at First Church, I'll move. I'm not going to step down in disobedience to God..."

"If you want to move me out, you live by it," he challenged church members.

The recommendation to keep Stanley as pastor, approved earlier by deacons 35-3, passed easily on a show-of-hands vote. Observers estimated the margin at greater than three to one.

Criticism of Stanley has grown recently as efforts to reconcile his 40-year marriage have failed. Stanley and other conservatives believe a divorced man is disqualified from serving as a pastor, and Stanley himself told the congregation Aug. 13 he will step aside if the divorce becomes final. The trial starts Nov. 27.

Stanley, and his wife, Anna, have been separated since 1992, and Anna Stanley, who filed for

divorce, says there is no chance of reconciliation.

Also during the Oct. 1 meeting, members voted not to allow the congregation's satellite campus in north Atlanta to become a separate church. Until Aug. 2 the north site was pastored by Stanley's son, Andy, who resigned because of his father's refusal to leave the First Church pulpit.

Members were told Oct. 1 Andy Stanley would not accept the pastorate of the north congregation if the group were to separate from

First Church. Instead, Andy Stanley is considering starting a new congregation elsewhere in north Atlanta.

After the vote, Stanley thanked church members for their "support and love." Several members said later they were pleased with the outcome.

But deacon Tim Turner, one of several leaders who called for the first meeting on Aug. 13, said "there are still serious issues in his [Stanley's] life that need to be addressed."

WMU of First Church, Marks, recalls 80 years of service, mission giving

First Church, Marks, celebrated 80 years of its Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) organization on Sept. 11.

Part of the celebration included a presentation of the history of the organization. Much of the material for that presentation came from the records of Nell (Mrs. Frank) Hammond, 90, of Whitney, Texas. Hammond is a former director of the First Church WMU. Her records date back to 1912, and include a list of all the former directors of the organization.

Among the earliest directors were Mrs. S.W. Sproles, 1912-17; Mrs. J.M. Causey, 1917-20; and Mrs. Mattie Eavenson, 1927-28,

who was mother of the former missionary and pastor of the church, Ira Eavenson.

Marie (Mrs. Jesse) Eavenson was among the oldest former members present at the Sept. 11 celebration. She is the mother of Dottie Eavenson Gray, Southern Baptist missionary to Okinawa for nearly 25 years.

Attendees at the meeting noted that at the WMU's inception at the church in 1912, there was no magazine to guide it. The "women just prayed and gave to home and foreign missions and learned what was going on in the mission field."

Duke Wheeler is First Church, Marks, pastor.

BSSB literature prices go up in '96

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Due to rising paper costs that have outpaced inflation, the price of dated literature produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board will increase an average of 7% beginning with the April-May-June 1996 issues.

"This increase was approved by our trustees during their Sept. 25-27 meeting at Ridgecrest Conference Center and we wanted to get the information out as quickly as possible because we know churches need to have this for use in budget planning," said Gene Mims, vice president of the board's

church growth group.

Mims noted paper pulp prices have increased 66.9% from June 1994 to June 1995 compared to an inflation rate for the period of 3%. Paper pulp continued to increase, reaching an all-time high in September.

Paper costs have risen from 5.29% of total BSSB literature sales to 10.39% in just six quarters. For example, he noted one type of paper widely used in dated literature, Penagra Suede, has risen from \$35 per roll in January 1993 to \$62.66 in June 1995.

Mims said the 7% increase is

an average. Some resources will go up less; others, more, such as titles with limited circulation that cost more per copy to produce.

"While inflation periodically forces an increase in the cost of literature prices, we regret that increases in paper costs beyond the rate of inflation have necessitated this increase," Mims said. "We are glad that our prices continue to be among the lowest for dated church literature. We are committed to providing relevant, high-quality, high-value church literature at the lowest possible cost."

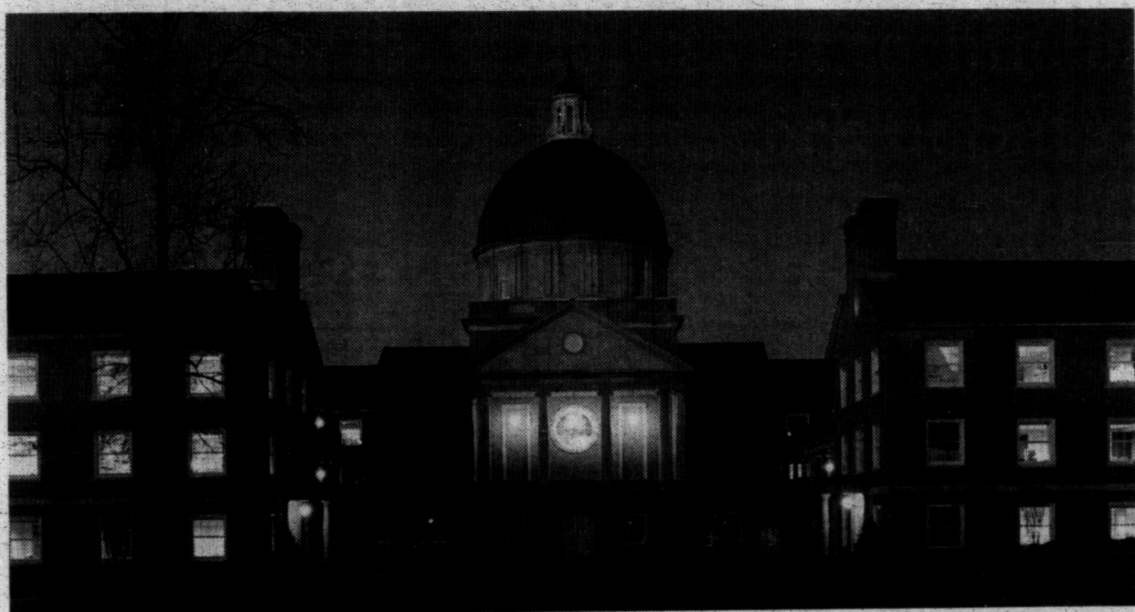
Thursday, October 12, 1995

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Several Mississippi College (MC) representatives attended the recent annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools in San Antonio, Texas. They are (from left): Charles Martin, vice president for academic affairs; Mrs. Charles Martin; Howell Todd, MC president; Mrs. Edward McMillan; Edward McMillan, vice president for graduate studies and special programs; Mrs. Glen Eaves; and Glen Eaves, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Soli Deo Gloria!



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Lecture	"Costly Grace: The Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer"	Mary Glazener	October 23, 10:00 a.m.
Stageplay	"A View From the Underside, Bonhoeffer's Legacy"	Al Staggs	October 23, 7:00 p.m.
Worship	"A Window on the World"	Jerry A. Rankin	October 24, 11:00 a.m.
Reception	A Celebration of Friendship with W.A. Criswell, Herschel H. Hobbs and Duke K. McCall		October 24, 9:30 a.m.
Lecture	"Art: Secular Luxury or Christian Necessity?"	John Walford	October 25, 3:00 p.m.
Exhibition	The Art of Petru Botezatu	Petru Botezatu	October 25, 4:00 p.m.
Worship	A Service of Interdenominational Witness	David A. Hubbard	October 26, 7:00 p.m.
Worship	A Service of Celebration	Charles Colson	October 27, 10:00 a.m.
Recital	Piano and Organ Concert	Ronald Boud	November 2, 7:00 p.m.



Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama 35229



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I have no feelings left for my husband, but I do love someone else who is not here. I need to be loved and want to be with him. What can I do?

Everyone has a need to be loved but that need should be filled by your relationship with Jesus Christ, not your spouse or someone else. You have no feelings for your husband because the two of you are not actively working on the relationship, which is also being adulterated by outside forces. Stop seeing the other person. Work first on your relationship with God and discover who you are before you allow your husband or others to tell you what you need. Your love needs are very precious and should not be given away to just anybody. Your need for companionship comes next after your love need has been met by Jesus Christ, so spend time with your husband and search for common interests. At least, smile at him. I strongly recommend that you talk with your pastor or a Christian counselor about how to deal

with your hurt and loneliness.

I feel I was fired unjustly, and sometimes I want to go back to the office and wipe them all out. How can I deal with this anger before it consumes me?

You are angry and grieving, and that is normal. You are also searching for something that will deaden the pain, bring relief, and make others aware of how badly you feel. The injustice of the situation is another reason for your anger, which is often fueled by fear, frustration, and injustice. Keeping all this inside of you will only stifle the pain and hinder your personal growth. You have acknowledged your hurt, and venting your anger constructively — writing this letter, for example — will allow you to heal. Find a trustworthy Christian friend who will simply listen to you and not offer solutions, because at this point there are few solutions. With time, you will discover answers. The answers will probably not be the ones you want, but understanding will come.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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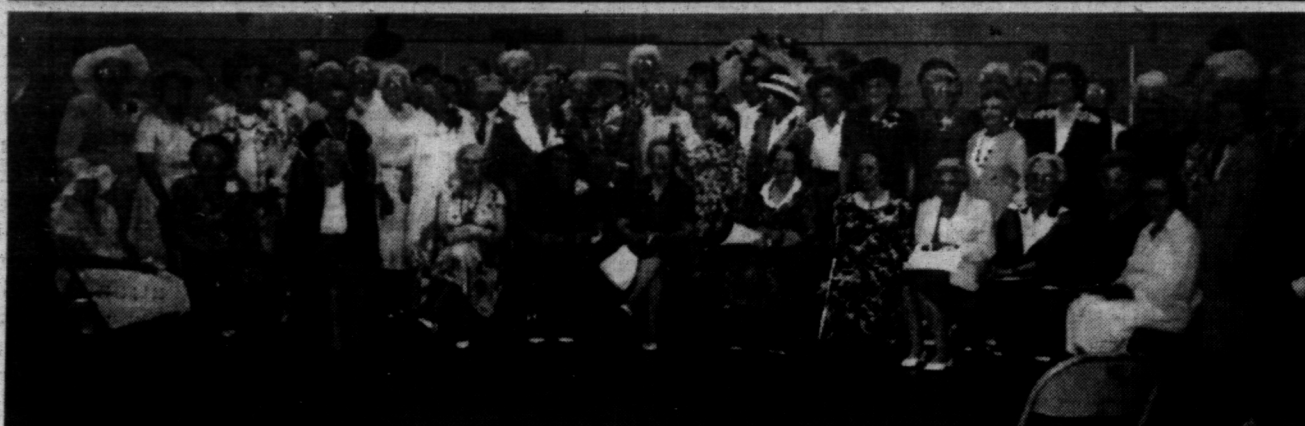
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Just for the Record



The Woman's Missionary Union of Jackson Association honored 64 women (pictured) who are 70-plus years of age for their time, money, and encouragement given through missions. Each church gave emphasis in morning services on Aug. 27, and the association sponsored an afternoon appreciation tea at First

Church, Gautier. Many of the ladies wore hats as an expression of appreciation for the honorees. Barbara Ann Phlegar, missionary to Thailand, expressed appreciation for the prayers and encouragement given by WMU members over the years. Sybil Smith is the associational Women on Mission consultant.



Seven and eight-year-old Sunday School class members from Ridgecrest Church, Madison, visited the pediatric unit at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center as part of their mission project. Class members prepared and delivered gift boxes for patients which included coloring sheets, candy, scripture verses, and devotional books. Class teachers Marcy and Luther Lee, IV, organized the mission project and arranged the MBMC tour for their class.

West Gulfport Church, Gulf Coast Association, had VBS for the first time in seven years June 26-30. The youth group and leaders of Mount Zion Church, Florence, made it possible by conducting VBS and fellowship activities during the week. West Gulfport Church would like to publicly thank the youth group and leaders of Mount Zion Church. There were 21 children enrolled and 21 workers with a 95% turn out each day. One nine-year-old boy was saved. Grady J. Ross is pastor.

Wynndale Church, Terry, will host Bill Baker in a country gospel concert on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, for the past 22 years, will retire from that position in December to pursue a music career. Charles Gentry is Wynndale Church pastor.

A traditional Sacred Harp Sing will be held on the campus of New Orleans Seminary on Oct 24

at 7 p.m. in the Sellers Music Building. For more information call (504) 282-4455 ext. 3226.

Baxterville Church, Lumberton, will host a South Lamar Crusade on Oct. 14-15. On Saturday, Oct. 14, the meeting will be held at Baxterville Attendance Center gymnasium at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission, will be the speaker. On Oct. 15, the meeting will take place at 4 p.m. in the school's gym. Speaker for that session will be Joe Trull. Trull will also be the guest speaker

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Homecomings

Pearlhaven, Brookhaven: Oct. 15; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Jimmy Houston, Pricedale, former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; no night services; Frank Stiedle, Canton, guest singer; Glen Mullins, pastor.

Chunky (Newton): Oct. 15; worship, 11 a.m.; Raymond Herrington, former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish dinner in family life building, noon; no night services; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Briarwood, Meridian: Oct. 15; worship, 10:45 a.m.; Tow Wood, Briarwood's first pastor, Meridian, guest speaker; covered dish dinner in family life center, noon; no night services; David Chambers, pastor.

First of Runnelstown, Petal: Oct. 22; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; afternoon fellowship time; Henry Freeman, pastor.

Algoma (Pontotoc): Oct. 22; worship, 10:30 a.m.; Kermit McGregor, Mendenhall, guest speaker; lunch, noon; afternoon program and singing, 1:30 p.m.; Don Smith, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: Oct. 15; worship, 11 a.m.; Sonny Kelly, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night

services; Kim Wolverton, pastor.

Longview, Starkville: Oct. 29; 90th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; W.E. Alexander, Brookhaven, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon services with former pastors and members, 1:30; Donald Pouns, pastor.

Endville, Belden: Oct. 29; worship, 11 a.m.; Mike Powell, New Albany, guest speaker; dinner in the fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing with area talent; no night services; Tracy Quillian, pastor.

Carey Chapel, Mt. Pleasant: Oct. 15; lunch following morning worship services; afternoon program with the Rodgers Family, Brownsville and Colliersville, Tenn.

Glendale, Leland: Oct. 22; 40th anniversary; worship services, 11 a.m.; Jody Nichols, Irving, Texas, guest speaker; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon gospel concert, the Gospel Notes, Cleveland; hall of memories display; Keith Dendy, pastor.

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Staff Changes

Fellowship, Chickasaw: Oct. 22-27; 7 nightly; David Kendall, evangelist; Kevin Morris, music; Bobby Brock, pastor.

Juniper Grove, Poplarville: Oct. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; Leon Dunn, Hammond, La., evangelist; Thadd Wilson, Angleton, Texas, music; Phil Hanberry, pastor.

Oral, Sumrall: Oct. 29-Nov. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 nightly; Reggie Hanberry, Larose, La., evangelist; Bo Parker, Columbia, music; Tom McCormick, pastor.

New Hope, Gulfport: Oct. 15-18; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly; laymen of the church, evangelists; Michael Nier, music; Durwood Broughton, pastor.

Kolola Springs, Caledonia: Oct. 23-26; 7 nightly; Johnny Parrick, evangelist; Charlie Farrar, music; Don Harding, pastor.

Springdale, West: Oct. 15-20; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, Sturgis, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville, music; Tim Weisheim, pastor.

First, Itta Bena, marks centennial anniversary

First Church, Itta Bena, will mark its 100th anniversary on Oct. 15.

In conjunction with the centennial activities, the church will host a fish fry beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14. At 7 p.m. that

evening, there will be a "Night of Praise." Jessie Bennett, Charles Murphey, Chuck McMinn, Sandy Land, Andy Cummings, and Tommy Kelly will all participate in that service.

On Oct. 15, Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m.; worship services will follow at 10:30. Otis Seal of Meridian will be the guest speaker for the day; Kenny White of Foxworth will lead the music. Liz Toomey will also be on program. After the morning services, there will be a covered dish dinner in the church fellowship hall. There will be no night services.

Higdon Herrington is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 254-7224.

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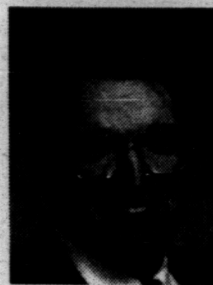
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First Church, Collinsville, has called **Hal Bates** as pastor, effective Sept. 3. A native of Pearl, he received his education at Clarke College, Delta State University, and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Meadowood



Bates
Church, Amory.

Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, has called **Kerry Jenkins** as minister of music effective Sept. 3. A native of Clinton, he received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, has called **Edward L. Phillips** as minister of music and youth effective Sept. 1. A native of Bradenton, Fla., he received his education at William Carey



Phillips

College. He previously served First Church, Foxworth, as pastor for five years. Phillips is a member of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen.

Rocky Point (Leake Association) has called **William Wright** as pastor, effective Oct. 8. Wright goes to Rocky Point from Goss Church, Columbia.

First Church, McLaurin, has called **Sam Clemts** as minister of music. He previously served Grace Chapel, Brooklyn, for over two years. Carlis Braswell is pastor, First, McLaurin.



Clemts

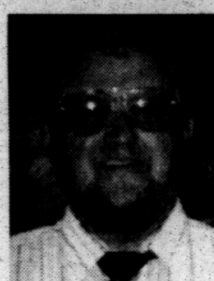
Ervin Mooney has been called as pastor of **Center Grove Church,** Meridian. He previously served New Harmony Church, Neshoba County.

Harrisville Church, Simpson Association, has called **Donnie Smith Jr.** as pastor. The Batesville native is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously

served churches in Franklin and Lincoln counties.

Bob Chichester has joined the staff of **Bay Vista Church, Biloxi,** as associate pastor, music and education. Chichester is a graduate of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Zack T. Winningham has announced he will retire Dec. 31 after 40 years in the ministry. He has served as pastor of Rock Hill Church, Mendenhall, for the past four and a half years. He also served churches in Alabama and Louisiana.



Clark

New Home Church, Smith County, recently called **Mike Clark** of Taylorsville as pastor and **Bill Collins** of Soso as song director.

Names in the News

William J. Murray, the former president of American Atheists and the son of atheist leader, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, will speak in Pontotoc on Oct. 21-22. His schedule for engagements include a crusade at Pontotoc High School, Saturday, 7 p.m.; and speaking on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. worship services at First Church, and combined evening church services at the Court Square, 6 p.m. For more information call Pontotoc Associational Office at (601) 489-1251.

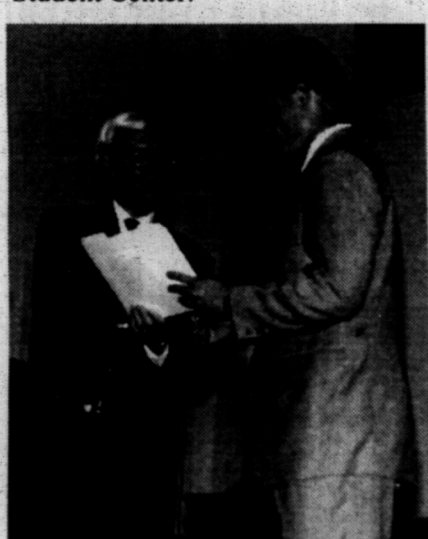
Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., will dedicate the **Russell Bush Jr. Room** in its newly restored "House of the Prophets." Bush is pastor of **Main Street Church, Hattiesburg,** and is being recognized for his faithful service to the church, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention. His son, L. Russell Bush III, is vice president of Academic Affairs at Southeastern.

Mississippi College has recognized **Roy Noble Lee,** former Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, as Alumnus of the Year for 1995. The Scott County native graduated from Mississippi College in 1938, and served on the state Supreme Court until his retirement in 1992. He and his wife Sue Epting Lee have five children.



Lee

Mississippi State University History Professor John Peter Grill, a nationally recognized scholar in German history, will speak at Mississippi College at the 1995 R. Glen Eaves Lectureship in European and English History on Oct. 16. He will speak about the German public's reaction to Hitler's rise to power. The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room in the B.C. Rogers Student Center.



Wynndale Church, Terry, recently ordained **Jay Albritton** (right) to the gospel ministry. Assisting Charles Gentry (left), pastor, in the ordination service were Albritton's father Ernie of Oklahoma City, Okla., and his father-in-law, David Bevell of Memphis. The younger Albritton has been called as Wynndale's first full-time minister of youth, activities, and education. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and is enrolled in New Orleans Seminary extension courses.

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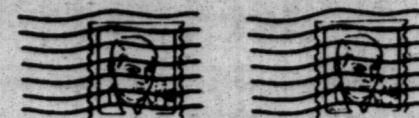
Billy Graham once said that he believed that 90% of church members had just enough religion that they had been inoculated from the real thing.

- ☛ Are we converting men to our creeds or to Christ?
- ☛ Is it our "acceptance of Him" — or His acceptance of us — that really matters?
- ☛ Are we producing people who are more committed to the church rather than to the Lord of the church?
- ☛ Just how saved are we?

For a **free** copy of the message, "**Counterfeit Christianity**," write: Calvary Baptist Church Tape Ministry • 1309 Church St., Columbia, MS 39249



Letters to the editor



Praise for MBMC

Editor:

Mississippi Baptists share in supporting a very fine medical center. We know this because our husband and father, Reuben Greene, has been a patient in this facility (Mississippi Baptist Medical Center) for much of 1995. The complete staff, nurses, and administrative personnel have been wonderful. Thirty-one days were spent in ICU, 70 days in Restorative Care, and 15 days on the sixth floor. Our needs for both the patient and for us, his family, were met. We want to express to the hospital and its entire staff our deep appreciation.

We also want to thank the churches in the metro Jackson area and the entire state of Mississippi for praying for Reuben. God gave us a miracle and spared his life. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The Reuben Greene family
Brandon

Find meaning in loss

Editor:

Our church recently suffered the loss of our pastor, Kenny Hunt. We deeply appreciate all the expressions of love you have shown his wife Sheila and their children. You will never know how much this has meant to them as well as our church.

The church Brotherhood is seeking to develop a fund through which individuals can receive a scholarship to go on a mission trip, called the Kenny Hunt Mission Trip Scholarship Fund. Donations can be made to:

Wess Chapel Baptist Church
Mission Trip Fund
c/o Ricky Wright
203 McMinn Circle
Louisville, MS 39339

Bro. Kenny had a heart for missions. He always enjoyed going on mission trips and encouraging others to go. We feel this scholarship fund would be a fitting tribute. Pray that our precious Lord and Savior will be honored through this ministry.

Wess Chapel Baptist Men
Wess Chapel Church
Louisville

Kazakh aid received

Editor:

Thank you very much (Mississippi Baptists) for the vitamins. They were by far the most valuable thing sent in the last container. In the village where I work 130 kilometers out of Aqtau (Kazakhstan), I have given four months' supply to the kindergarten for every child and six months' supply to the first grade in the Kazakh school and a two month supply to the Russian school (these children are usually better off). I have given a month's supply to the first grade in a school in Aqtau. I have also given some to specific poor families I have come across whose children do not fall into these categories.

Many children have a kind of leg ulcer that may start with a simple mosquito bite which they scratch and it becomes infected and does not heal because of their poor nutritional status. I am giving vitamins to some of these children and have seen healing take place.

So we appreciate and send our thanks to those people and churches who have given. It may seem little to them and they may have forgotten, but for some families here in west Kazakhstan it is still having an effect.

We would appreciate more vitamins and lots more prayer. We are with you in the battle to reach every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Tom Webb, missionary
Aqtau, Kazakhstan

Editor's note: Mississippi Baptists helped send a massive quantity of vitamins to Kazakhstan earlier this year through the International Business Partners organization based in Clinton. Webb will be in Mississippi in February 1996. Watch for announcements on his speaking schedule.

Please study, rethink

Editor:

Although an almost lifelong member of First Church, Hattiesburg, and also that long a reader of the Mississippi Baptist Record, I have never — until now — written my pastor or you regarding any subject.

But, I must say that if the Southern Baptist Convention does not repeal [the racial reconciliation resolution] at its New Orleans meeting in 1996, I (and I believe many others) will remove our letters.

I hope and pray it doesn't come to that.

There is much material relating to this core issue, but may I respectfully recommend and suggest just three fine and worthy books for further reading and enlightenment on this fundamental question of our founding and roots: 1) **Christ in the Camp**, by R.L. Dabney, Sprinkle Press (Va.); 2) **The Great Revival in the Southern Armies**, by William Bennett, D.D., Sprinkle Press (Va.); and 3) the new best seller, **The South Was Right!**, by James R. Kennedy (native Mississippian), Pelican Publishers (La.).

R. Scott Farris
Hattiesburg

Movement blessed?

Editor:

When one suggests that the SBC should tolerate the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in the same way that Gamaliel and the Sanhedrin tolerated Christians, no one should misunderstand his meaning.

Gamaliel argued that if a movement is not of God, it will decline and disappear; and if it has God's approval, nothing can defeat it. There are several flaws in his theology: in the first place, evil movements do not automatically

come to naught; and, secondly, righteous causes do not always succeed. Gamaliel seemed to say that "success" is proof of God's approval, and failure indicates that God's endorsement is absent. By this standard, even Jesus had failed and could not have been God. But there is ample evidence that evil men and movements often prosper, and good ones fail. A hostile majority may control an organization, while the peace-loving minority comes to naught. The Lord, for reasons unknown to humanity, sometimes permits evil and selfish leaders to triumph for a season.

Gamaliel's offer of delay, then, was not an expression of tolerance at all. Rather it was a clever ploy by murderous shysters to set the stage to accomplish their own goals, at a place and time suitable to their own purposes. Gamaliel led the court to understand that a delay would accomplish the same result as executing them (that is, silence them), without disturbing the public or arousing the wrath of Rome. In the meantime, the apostles disobeyed court orders and continued their ministry in the temple, in the homes, and on the streets, declaring that they must obey God rather than men!

J.K. Moore
Newton

Editor's Note: You are right. Gamaliel's example is suspect; however, the principle is sound. God will work out his will. Don't

forget the time element. Eventually, an evil movement will come to naught and eventually a movement with the backing of God will prevail. A similar principle is stated in Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Grateful for prayers

Editor:

I want to take this means to express my sincere gratitude for the many dear people who prayed for me during and after my unexpected heart by-pass surgery recently. The many cards, telephone calls, and visits surely were appreciated. Through the years, I have tried to be on the giving end of such. To be on the receiving end was indeed new to me, but deeply comforting.

Plans to return to the foreign mission field have been placed on hold for awhile. A precious church, First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg, has felt that my mission field should be their church field. My wife Jane and I have agreed and we are in the beginning days of our ministry there.

Thanks be to God who is always at work and invites us to join him.

Tom Sumrall
Hattiesburg

Mail in resolutions

Editor:

On page 32 of the 1994 Annual of the Mississippi Baptist Con-

vention (MBC), Mary Libby Payne, chairman of the resolutions committee, suggested that resolutions, where possible, be mailed to the committee before the Convention meets. Payne feels that the committee operates on a very tight time-frame in its critical prayer and deliberation process with the resolutions that are turned in on the day or the night before the committee reports to the MBC. Consequently, the 1995 committee appointees would like to request that resolutions, where possible, be mailed to us in advance of the convention at the following address. Since MBC Bylaw XII indicates that resolutions must be submitted before adjournment of the third regular session of the annual convention, early remittance is not required but would be appreciated.

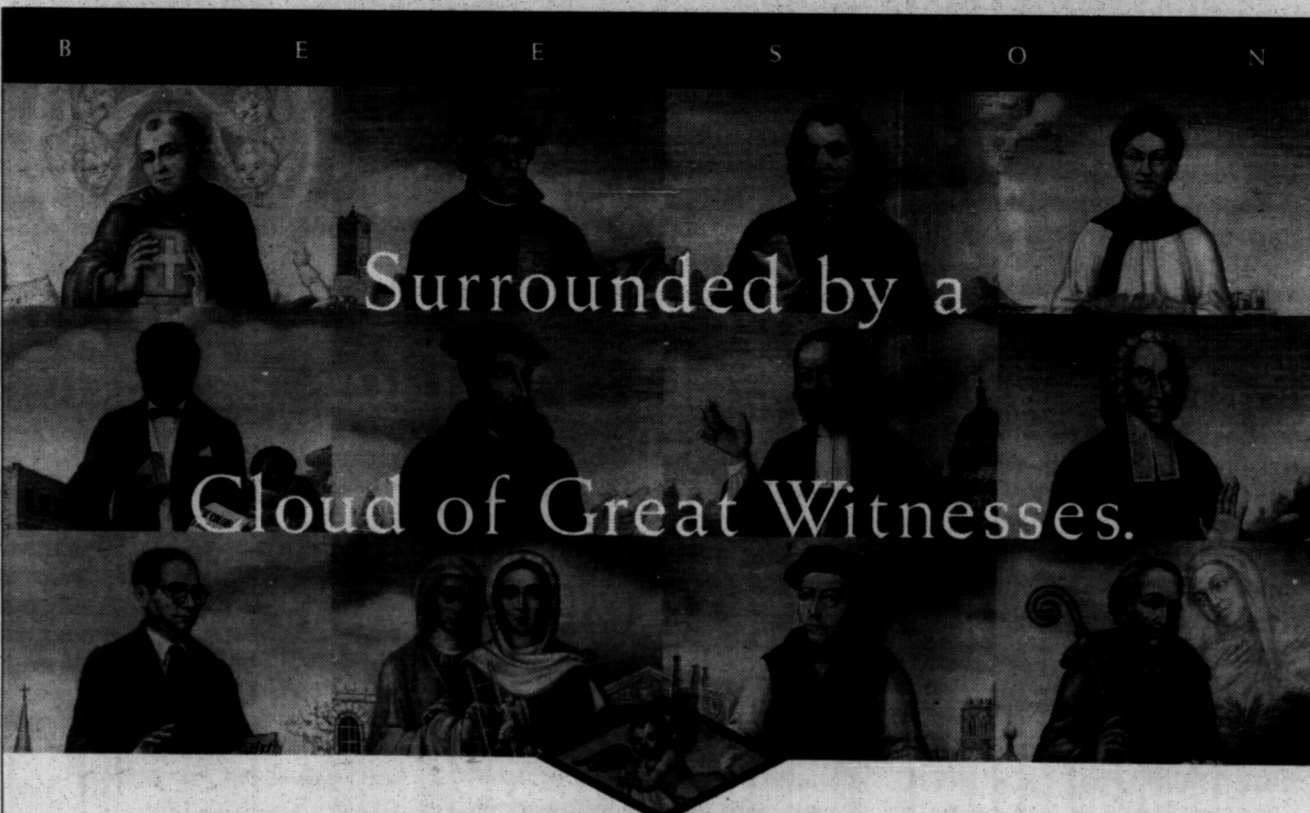
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by Petru Botezatu, Artist-in-Residence at Beeson. Their legacy points us beyond themselves to Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Their faithfulness gives us hope as we pray and work for the tarrying kingdom.

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Uniform Confronted by Jesus



By Andy Brasher
Acts 9

Everyone who accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior does so by confronting him. In actuality, it is Christ who first confronts us. Through confrontation, a relationship with Jesus is offered and subsequently, individually accepted or rejected. Each person has the expressed, innate, and divinely appointed right to make that choice. Sure there is persuasion for acceptance, but it can be resisted. A question should be posed: has Christ confronted you? Salvation depends upon a one-on-one encounter with the risen Lord. A second question could be asked: how did you respond when you encountered the Lord? The response to this question has eternal implications.

In this week's lesson, Christ confronts a sinner of the highest order — his name was Saul. Let us examine how he handled this encounter.

After experiencing the barbaric and sensational death of Stephen, Saul was full of zeal in carrying out the orders of the Sanhedrin (vv. 1-2). Accompanied by his entourage, Saul boldly set out to Damascus to persecute the growing population of Christians in that city. Evidently, Saul had the Sanhedrin's approval and sanction.

As Saul neared the city, Luke reports that a "light from heaven flashed around him." Saul fell to the ground, and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Saul answered, "Who art thou Lord?" The voice authoritatively replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting... Rise and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do."

First, the Lord is often referred to as "light." In John 8:12, Christ called himself the "light of the world," and in Psalms 27:1, David referred to him as "my light and my salvation." Thus, the word "light" gives us a clue to his immediate identity.

Second, Saul was the only person who saw the light and understood the voice that was speaking (v. 7). This is not unusual. A confrontation with the Lord is always personal. God does what it takes to get our individual attention. What convicts me of sin may not do the same for you. God purposefully chose to confront Saul, just as he chose to confront me some 24 years ago. I pray that you have experienced a personal confrontation with Jesus Christ!

As he was commanded, Saul entered the city and waited for further instruction (v. 6). As Saul waited, God was preparing the heart of his servant Ananias to be the witness that Saul needed (vv. 10-12). God always prepares his servants with the necessary tools to witness if they obey him.

More than likely, the individual God chose to witness to Saul was the very one Saul was coming to imprison (vv. 13-14). Ananias reluctantly accepted the task (v. 17). Why is it that we are so reluctant to accept our responsibility to evangelize others so that they may experience the same glorious benefits of his salvation? Is it because we fear persecution, rejection, or feel inadequate? In reality, is it not the case that the Lord prepares the witness, the way, and the person to be witnessed to (vv. 15-16)?

The Lord told Ananias that Saul was his chosen instrument and that he had a definite plan for him — preaching the gospel to the Gentiles. As a Christian, what has God called you to do? According to the Scriptures, you have a purpose and God has a plan for you! Ananias obeyed the Lord, went to the house where Saul was staying, and proclaimed the words that the Lord had given him. Saul received the words of Christ as spoken by his servant Ananias (vv. 17-18). Saul was a changed man! To put it in the language of Jesus, he had been "born again." This is exactly what every person needs and unknowingly desires. So do you!

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book God's helping hand



By Larry McDonald
Ezra 7, 8

The rebuilding of the temple had been completed with the return of Zerubbabel and 50,000 of his countrymen (chapters 1-6). Between chapters 6 and 7 there was a gap of about six decades in which the events of the book of Esther took place. After this, Ezra returned to Jerusalem with about 2,000 priests and Levites to rebuild the spiritual and moral lives of the people (chapters 7-10). Ezra was described as a teacher of the Law of Moses who had the "gracious hand of God" upon his life (7:6, 9, 28; 8:18, 22, 31; Neh. 2:8, 18). This phrase gave a striking description of God's favor upon him. Why was God's hand upon Ezra in this way?

The answer is found in the commitment Ezra had made in his life (7:10). Ezra was devoted to the study, observance, and teaching of God's Word. The word "devotion" meant "to be firm, to be established, to be fixed." Ezra was not a man who wandered aimlessly. He had firmly established in his heart the direction God wanted for his life. Stephen Covey, in **Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**, states it this way, "Begin With The End In Mind." God's hand was upon Ezra because he had made a commitment to be a man of God.

In order for us to fully understand this devotion Ezra had in his life, we must also see the three things to which he was devoted.

First, Ezra was devoted to the study of God's Word (7:10). The word "study" has shades of meanings such as "consult, inquire, investigate, search, seek." The Arabic word was used in the treading of wheat which provides a graphic picture of its figurative use of reading repeatedly. For Ezra, studying the Bible was far more than just a casual reading of it. He knew human wisdom was finite and he needed something else to base his life and thinking upon. Ezra sought to build the Word of God into the very core of his being so that his lifestyle and decision-making would be founded upon God's eternal principles.

Second, Ezra was devoted to obeying the Word of God (7:10). In his life, the study of the Bible was not a dry academic pursuit that had no effect upon his personal life. Ezra allowed his Biblical study to move out of just being intellectual to where it affected every area of his life. His study of Scripture was with a heart toward obedience. If God said it, Ezra was committed to obeying it. When we study the Bible without obeying it, we deceive ourselves. We become hearers of the Word and not doers (James 1:22-25).

Third, Ezra was devoted to teaching the Word of God (7:10). There are 12 Hebrew words used in the Old Testament that have been translated "teach." This particular one carried with it the aspect of training as well as educating. This meant Ezra was not satisfied to just give out Bible knowledge. He wanted his listeners to grasp both Biblical content and its application to life. He wanted them to be trained in godly living which comes from applying Biblical principles to our daily lives. Ezra knew for this to happen in the lives of his listeners it had to be taking place in his own life. Teaching only comes as a natural result of studying and obeying. It is only as one has a good foundation in the first two, that they should go on to teaching, because teachers will incur a stricter judgment (James 3:1).

Howard Hendricks tells of a professor who made an impact in his life. He passed this professor's home many times, early in the morning and late at night, and often saw him pouring over his books. One day, Hendricks asked him, "Doctor, I'd like to know what it is that keeps you studying? You never cease to learn."

His answer: "Son, I would rather have my students drink from a running stream than from a stagnant pool."

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work How can I succeed?



By Bob Rogers
2 Peter 1

How do you define success? More money? Public recognition? Victories on the ballfield? A college education? A strong marriage and children who turn out well? 2 Peter 1:1-11 tells the Christian how to succeed.

Receive the faith (vv. 1-2). Simon Peter began his letter by identifying himself and labeling his readers as "those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours" (v. 1).

The first step in success is to receive a faith in "our God and Savior Jesus Christ." Peter's use of the phrase "God and Savior" rather than the more familiar "Lord and Savior" reminds us that when we trust Jesus as Lord, we are recognizing that he is God. A religion that denies the divinity of Christ cannot save from sin, because it is not based on the Jesus of the Bible (see 2 Cor. 11:3-4; 1 Cor. 3:11).

Stand on the promises (vv. 3-4). Peter said that Jesus "has given us everything we need" (v. 3) to live a godly Christian life. How has he done this? Through "our knowledge of him" (v. 3) and through "his very great and precious promises" (v. 4).

Some of the Gnostic heretics that early Christians faced bragged about their superior spiritual "knowledge." Peter replied that our knowledge is in Jesus, and we stand on his promises.

Jesus made many promises in the gospels: to acknowledge believers before the Father (Matt. 10:32), to give us rest (Matt. 11:28-30), to build his church (Matt. 16:18), to make his followers fishers of men (Mark 1:17), to give us words to say to our adversaries (Luke 21:15), to prepare a place for us in heaven (John 14:3), to answer prayers in his name (John 14:14), and to send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor (John 16:7). On these and many more promises we stand.

Add up Christian character (vv. 5-9). Verses 5-7 stand alongside great passages on Christian character such as the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, "think on these things" in Philippians 4:8-9, and "putting on" the things of Christ in Colossians 3:12-14. In this passage, Peter used the theme of adding one characteristic to another to make a grand sum.

He began with "faith," the beginning point of salvation, first mentioned in verse 1. To faith we add *arete*, which is translated "goodness" in the NIV, "virtue" in the KJV, and "moral excellence" in the NASB.

To goodness we add *gnosis*, "knowledge." Peter did not allow the Gnostic heretics to monopolize this word; education in God's truth is an important Christian virtue (2 Tim. 2:15).

To knowledge we add *ekrateia*, "self-control." This word comes from the stem *krat-*, which denotes power. *Ekrateia* is power over the self.

To self-control we add *hypomone*, "perseverance." More than passive patience, this word means courageous endurance.

To perseverance we add *eusebeia*, "godliness." Peter emphasized godliness in four passages in this letter (1:3, 6; 2:9; 3:11). In contrast to the Gnostics who wanted to have a knowledge of God, Peter urged Christians to have a lifestyle that is like God (compare 2 Tim. 3:5).

To godliness we add *phileo*, brotherly love, and to brotherly love we add *agape*, God-like love. These are the two Greek words for love most used in the New Testament. Sometimes they are synonymous, but *phileo* is used more for affection and friendship, while *agape* seeks the good of its object, whether it is deserved or not, and whether that love is returned or not. It is unconditional love.

Be eager for eternity (v. 10-11). "Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure" (v. 10). If anybody is unsure whether or not you are a Christian, he should see this evidence of a life changed by the grace of God and be sure.

We need to be eager to do this, because we "will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom." Are you excited about heaven? Then you should also be excited about living a godly life. This is the true key to success.

Questions for discussion: Who are the most successful Christians you know? What makes them so?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

capsules

WMU INTRODUCES NEW CHILDREN'S MAGAZINES: BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Responding to requests from Girls in Action leaders, Woman's Missionary Union has created two new age-appropriate magazines for girls. Beginning with the October releases, WMU now offers **Discovery** for girls in the first through fourth grades and **GA World** for girls in the fifth and sixth grades. Previously, **Discovery** was the only magazine for girls in first through sixth grades. Although the new magazine for younger girls carries the name of the previous magazine, the format and treatment of the magazine have been redesigned. Although WMU's magazines for girls are recommended as a teaching resource for GA leaders, they also can be used as a leisure piece, Barbara Massey, design editor for both magazines, pointed out. "A girl does not have to be a GA to enjoy and have fun with these magazines." To order **Discovery**, **GA World** or other WMU products, write WMU Customer Service, P.O. Box 830711, Birmingham, AL 35283-7301, or call 1-800-968-7301.

NEW MANUAL FOR IRS AUDITORS GIVES TAX CLUES TO MINISTERS: WASHINGTON (BP) — Ministers in America have a new resource from the Internal Revenue Service to help with tax planning and preparation. In an unprecedented move, the IRS has publicly released a training manual that teaches IRS examiners how to audit ministers' tax returns. The publication is part of the IRS's "Market Segment Specialization Program," in which the IRS has targeted 31 "industries" — including ministers — for scrutiny. A free copy of the manual — titled "Market Segment Specialization Program: Ministers" — may be obtained by writing to IRS Freedom of Information Reading Room, P.O. Box 795, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044. The manual may also be obtained by faxing a request to the IRS FOI Reading Room at (202) 622-9069.

BSSB LOOKING FOR CHURCHES TO PILOT OUTREACH MAGAZINE: NASHVILLE (BP) — The Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family magazine department is inviting churches to become a part of an outreach pilot project next spring that involves the trendy concept of "mass communication." Churches are being asked to participate in the outreach effort by purchasing personalized issues of a new magazine designed to reach the unchurched community. **Home Life Today** is designed to help the family who does not go to church strengthen their relationships with each other, said Gary Hauk, director of the magazine department conducting the pilot program. Churches wanting to participate would be asked to order a specified number of **Home Life Today** magazines which would arrive at their doorstep containing information about their church on the inside cover. Churches interested in pricing information for ordering the customized magazines should contact Outreach Pilot Project, Baptist Sunday School Board discipleship and family magazine department, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37234-0140. All orders must be in by January, with magazine distribution set for April. Fifty churches will be enlisted for the pilot on a first-come, first-serve basis, Hauk said.

FOREIGN BOARD PROVIDES \$254,500 FOR RELIEF IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: BELGUIM (BP) — Southern Baptists continue to help victims of fighting between ethnic groups that once formed Yugoslavia, most recently through \$254,500 in relief. Through the Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptists are helping to feed more than 75,000 people within the Yugoslavia war zone during September and October. Also, missionaries will use \$100,000 to provide emergency food for homeless refugees in Serbian Yugoslavia. About 250,000 refugees fled from the Krajina region of Croatia into Yugoslavia during August. Krajina had been held by Serbians since 1991 but was retaken by Croatian forces in a four-day offensive. "Most, if not all, of these people have absolutely nothing except the clothes on their backs," said Foreign Mission Board missionary Randy Bell. Funds are being directed to the most pressing needs identified: food, housing, bedding, and hygiene. Bell and his wife Joan are based in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia.

ACTS ANNOUNCES 3-YEAR PACT WITH F&V CHANNEL: FORT WORTH (BP) — The Faith and Values Channel (F&V) and ACTS (American Christian Television System), the cable television service operated by the Radio and Television Commission, have announced a new three-year programming agreement. Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, said, "I'm pleased with the agreement. I think our position is the finest in the industry for evangelicals. We are continuing on a major cable network that stresses family values, and I think the general public and our constituency will be pleased by the new look of the Faith and Values Channel." F&V is now available in 24.1 million cable households, a growth of approximately 2.5 million since January 1995. F&V is jointly owned by VISN Management Corp., a subsidiary of the National Interfaith Cable Coalition (NICC), and Liberty Media Corp., a subsidiary of Tele-Communications Inc. (TCI).



MC Chamber Choir to perform in Morton

The Mississippi College (MC) Chamber Choir will perform Sunday, Oct. 15, at 6:45 p.m. at Springfield Church, Morton. The 33-voice choir will perform a cappella works and hymn arrangements. Under the direction of Richard Joiner (front row,

left), head of the MC Music Department, the Chamber Choir performed at New York City's Carnegie Hall in June, and will perform at the American Choral Directors' Regional Convention in Norfolk, Va., in February 1996.

AFA ends boycott of Kmart; declares boycott effective

TUPELO (BP) — With the American Family Association recently ending its four-year boycott of Kmart, two lessons have been learned, according to a Southern Baptist spokesman.

Lamar Cooper, a Christian Life Commission staff member who coordinates the agency's anti-pornography efforts, noted:

— Economic boycotts to express moral convictions can be effective.

— Sometimes it requires perseverance to gain the intended result.

The conclusion of the boycott came when Kmart's new chairman informed AFA the discount chain store had ended affiliation with bookstores which sell pornographic materials, just as the organization had asked.

In early September, Floyd Hall, new chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Kmart, wrote AFA President Donald Wildmon saying the corporation would "honor its tradition as a family oriented store that shares many of the same values as your organization. As I hope you know, recently Kmart completed the total sale of

all of our book subsidiaries and no longer has any affiliation with Waldenbooks or Borders.

"I hope this draws to a close our past differences and I look forward to working with you and your fine organization."

Cooper, responding to the Kmart action, said, "We are pleased by the announcement from Kmart's new chairman, Floyd Hall, that Kmart will disassociate itself from bookstores that sell pornographic literature."

AFA had distributed 20 million cards promoting the boycott since former Kmart chairman Joseph Antonini refused to pull pornography from bookstores in which the parent store had invested. In recent years, Kmart had suffered serious financial declines.

"Our boycott was not totally responsible for the economic woes of Kmart, but (it was) certainly a major part of their economic decline," Wildmon stated.

The support of thousands of churches and hundreds of Christian radio stations aided in the boycott, Wildmon said.

Cooper expressed dismay that

many companies refuse to respond to anything other than economic pressure. "It is regrettable that corporations have not been willing to listen to reasonable arguments about the harmful moral, social, psychological, and spiritual impact of pornography use. It seems that economic consequences are the only thing they are willing to consider. Because this tragically is true, it will be necessary to address these issues by economic means with other corporations such as AT&T who have shown unwillingness to listen to concerns about support of homosexual rights groups, Planned Parenthood, and other anti-family organizations."

Under Wildmon's leadership, AFA has been a leader in providing information on companies which sell pornography or advertise on television programs which include profanity and illicit sexual material.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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BEWSA MPX, NMW DA TONQQ MPX KA BEWSAW:
JPMWAHM MPX, NMW DA TONQQ MPX KA
JPMWAHMAW: VPLSYUA, NMW DA TONQQ KA
VPLSYUAM:

QEZA TYC: XOYLYD-TAUAM

This week's clue: P equals O.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Ten: Twenty-Seven.

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